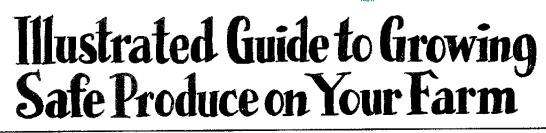
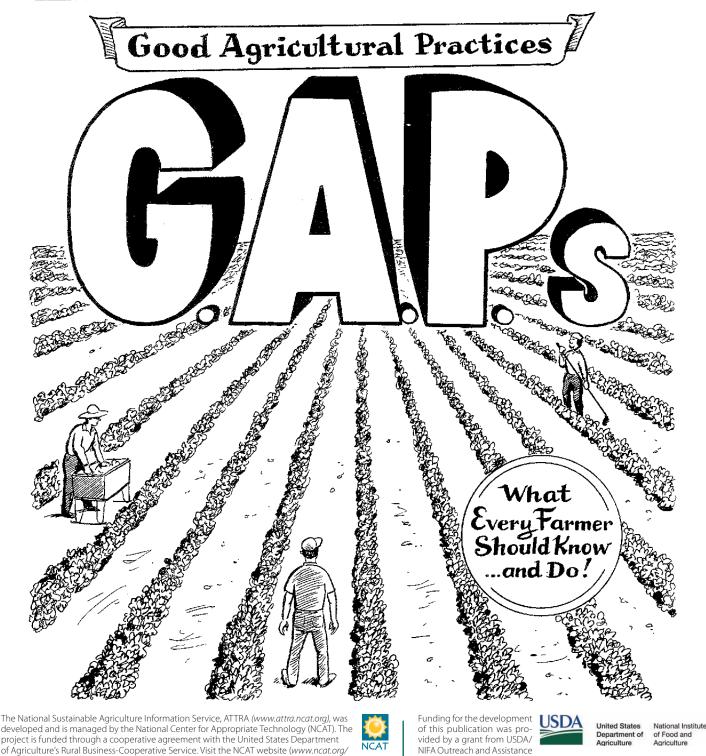
ATTRA A project of the National Center for Appropriate Technology 21-800-346-9140 • www.attra.ncat.org





sarc\_current.php) for more information on our other sustainable agriculture and energy projects.

to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (OASDFR).

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## The Importance of Food Safety

Farmers play an important role in preventing food-borne illnesses through their use of good agricultural and management practices. There are many ways that farmers can reduce the risk of contamination of their produce, such as:

- The proper use (and disposal) of water,
- Proper compost and application of manure,
- Good hygiene habits from the workers in the farm,
- Regular equipment checkup and maintenance,
- Proper sanitation of processing surfaces and transportation vehicles,
- Accurate record keeping.

With these practices, a farmer is not only contributing to a better and safer food system, but also creating more consumer confidence about the farmer's product and farm while reducing the potential liabilities from a food-borne outbreak.

# Pathogens: The Bad Bacteria that Cause Disease

Humans, animals and plants all co-evolved with bacteria that are considered normal, and even necessary, residents of our skin, mucosal membranes, and digestive tract, and, in the case of plants, their roots and leaves. These bacteria are benign inhabitants—they don't cause disease. Pathogens are bacteria that are not normally present in humans, animals or plants, and when they show up, they can cause disease. The good agricultural practices described in this publication were developed to reduce their presence in fresh produce, decreasing the likelihood of disease outbreaks. The most common bacteria that cause illness are:

#### Campylobacter

Campylobacter is the most common cause of bacterial foodborne illness. The Centers for Disease Control estimate that 2.4 million persons are affected each year (*www.cdc.gov*/ *nczved/divisions/dfbmd/diseases/campylobacter/technical.html*). It is commonly found in the intestines of warm-blooded birds and mammals. Food is the most common vehicle for the spread of campylobacter, and produce may be contaminated by animal feces in the fields where raw fruits and vegetables are grown. Most human illness is caused by one species, *Campylobacter jejuni*, and the disease is characterized by symptoms such as diarrhea (often bloody), abdominal cramps, and fever. The illness lasts one week.

#### Salmonella

Salmonella is a bacterium that causes the disease salmonellosis, with roughly 40,000 cases reported annually in the U.S. These bacteria, which live in the intestinal tract of mammals and birds, are usually transmitted to humans by eating food contaminated with animal feces, including food contaminated by food handlers who didn't use a proper handwashing technique. The disease is characterized by diarrhea (sometimes bloody), fever, and abdominal cramps. Salmonella infections can occasionally be localized, or become systemic by entering the blood.

#### Escherichia coli (E. coli)

*E. coli* are a large and diverse group of bacteria. Experts think that there might be about 70,000 infections in the U.S. annually with *E. coli* O157, a particularly dangerous "Shiga toxin-producing" *E.coli*, or STEC. STEC live in the guts of ruminant animals, including cattle, goats, sheep, deer, and elk, but have also been found in pigs and chickens. The major source for human illness is cattle. Infection starts when food contaminated with human or animal feces is eaten. *E.coli* most commonly cause diarrhea.

#### **Related ATTRA publications**

Publications available from ATTRA by phone (1-800-346-9140) or Web (*www.attra.ncat.org*)

*Start a Farm in the City:* Has information about urban soils and mitigating contaminated soil.

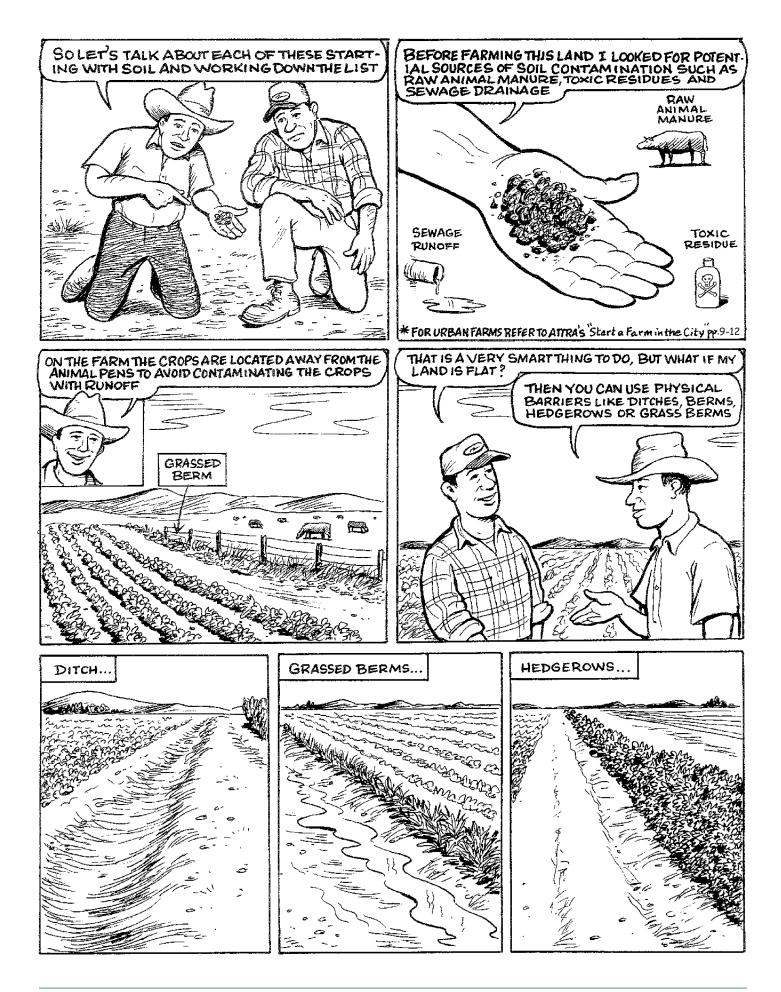
*New Markets for Your Crops:* Outlines some approaches to finding new markets, some of which might require a GAPs plan.

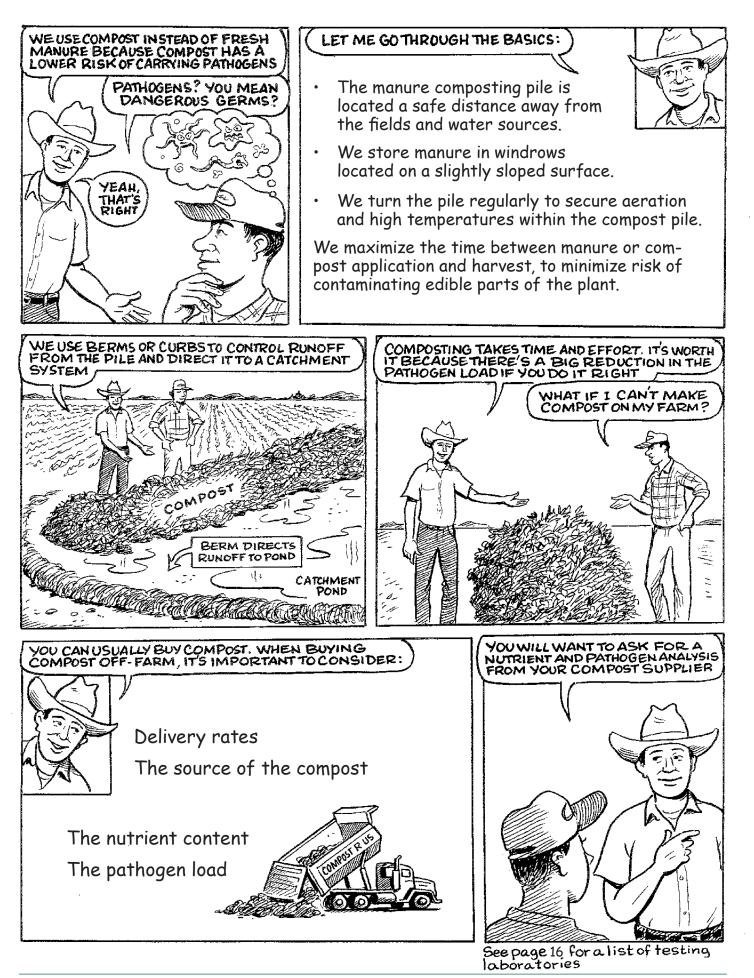
*Protecting Water Quality on Organic Farms:* Overview of practices to support good water quality on your farm.

*Farmscaping to Enhance Biological Control*: Includes discussion of approaches to developing hedgerows, which can act as buffers to protect crops from contamination.

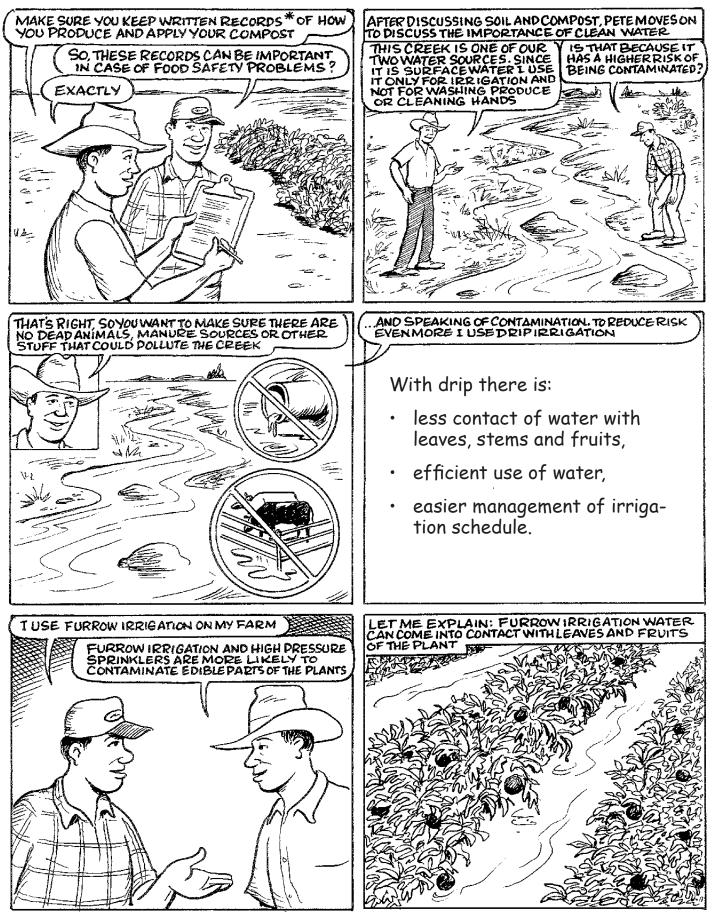




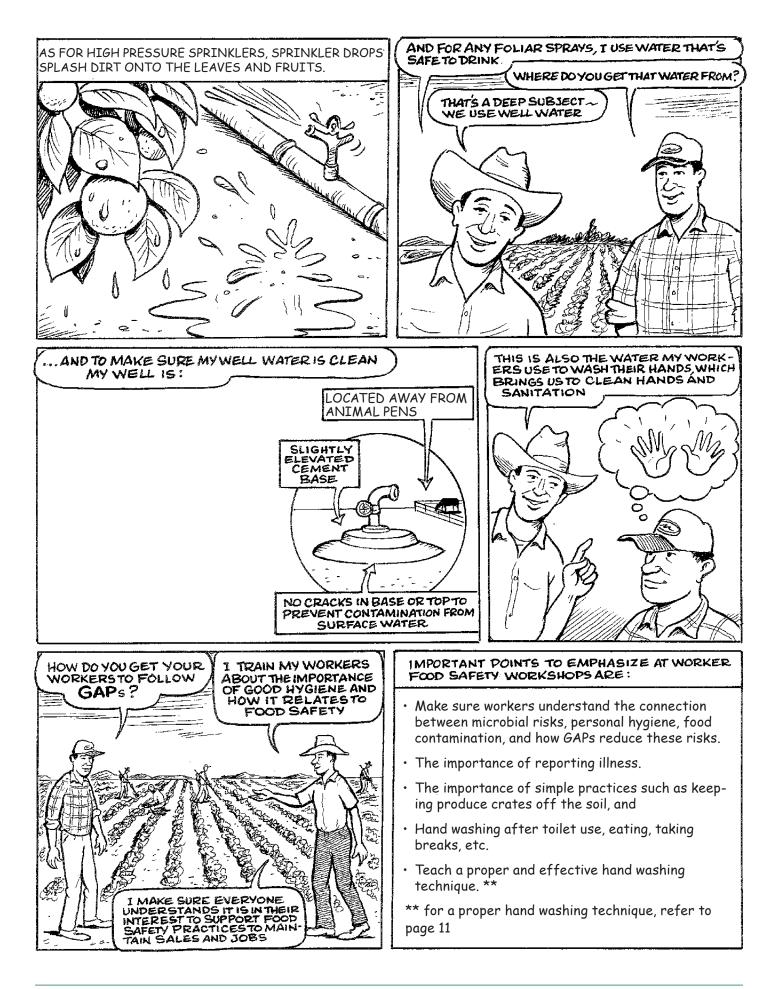


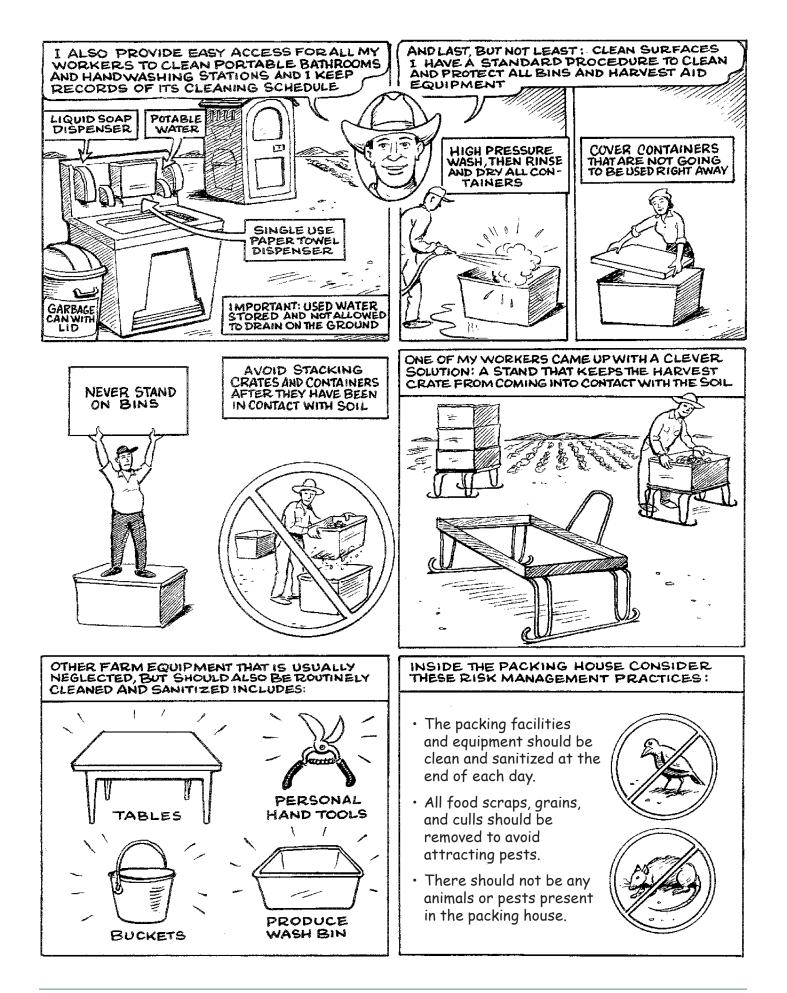


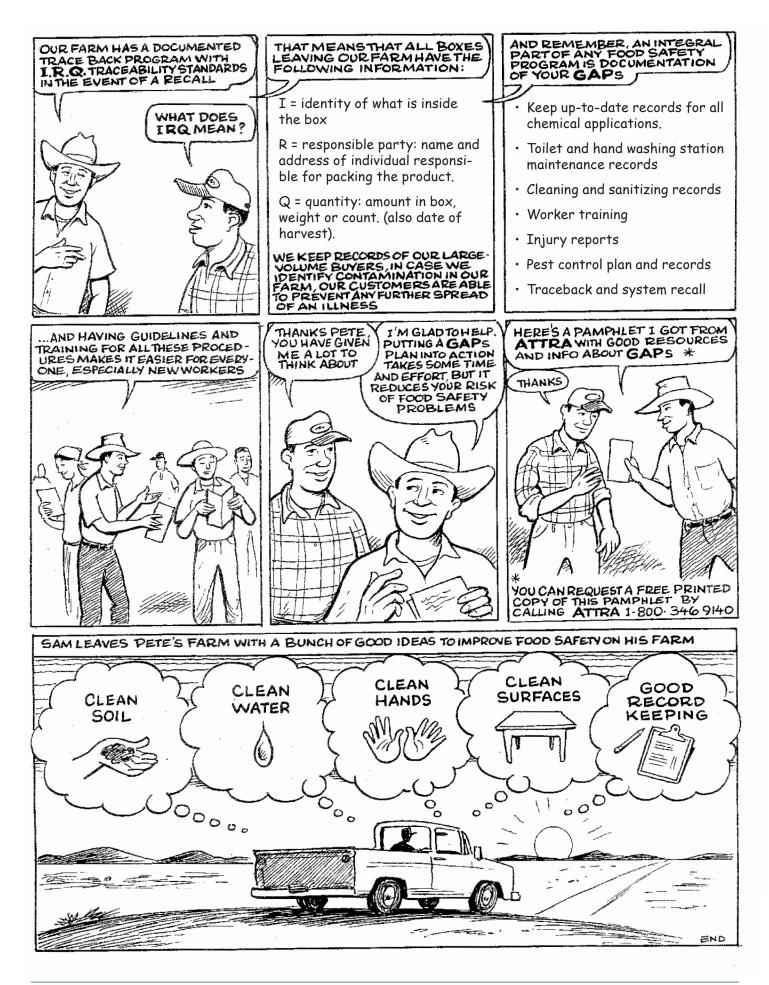
Illustrated Guide to Growing Safe Produce on Your Farm: GAPs



\*See page 19 for manure and compost application and production record keeping documents and see page 14 for specific National Organic Program regulations for composted manures







## **Proper Handwashing Technique**

- Wet hands with clean, warm water, apply soap, and work up a lather.
- Rub hands together for at least 20 seconds.
- Clean under the nails and between the fingers.
- Rub fingertips of each hand in suds on palm of opposite hand.
- Rinse under clean, running water.
- Dry hands with a single-use towel.

From *Food Safety Begins on the Farm: A Grower's Guide.* Cornell University.

## Biodiversity and Food Safety on the Farm

Biodiversity is the number and variety of organisms found within a specified geographic location. Biodiversity is important to sustain farm ecosystems because biodiverse soils function better than non-biodiverse soils-they have superior ability to absorb and hold water, are less prone to wind and water erosion, and, through interactions between soil organisms and the plant, biodiverse soils make available a wider range of nutrients to the plant than non-biodiverse soils. A biodiverse farm also retains many checks and balances against outbreaks of pests. Conversely, lack of biodiversity and lack of habitat for beneficial organisms can lead to overuse of pesticides, which is a food safety concern. However, a few species of animals on the farm can present food safety risks if adequate measures are not adopted. The following table lists animal species, the food safety risk they represent to your crops, and actions farmers should take to avoid contamination of produce.

Domestic Animals	Food Safety Risk	What a Farmer Can Do			
Cattle	Very High	<ul> <li>Prevent contamination of cropland, and water sources used for crop management, with pasture and rangeland runoff.</li> <li>Use grasses and vegetable buffers between crops and grazing lands.</li> <li>Rest grazing areas at least a week prior to irrigation.</li> <li>Filter runoff through wetlands.</li> <li>Avoid feeding on confined areas, use healthy pastures.</li> <li>Use certified compost or make sure farm-made compost is adequately managed.</li> <li>Use hedgerows or windbreaks to avoid possible dust containing manure blowing into crops.</li> </ul>			
Non-Domestic Animals	Food Safety Risk	What a Farmer Can Do			
Feral pigs	Moderately Low	<ul> <li>Monitor fields for feral pig intrusion. Define no-harvest zone if fecal matter is identified.</li> <li>Hunt the pigs or install hog wire fence.</li> <li>Removing habitat doesn't work.</li> </ul>			
Wildlife	Food Safety Risk	What a Farmer Can Do			
Deer	Low	<ul> <li>Use inexpensive feeding attractants away from crops.</li> <li>If high deer activity: discourage animals with loud noises, motion sensors, food attractants, and fencing as last resource.</li> <li>Do not remove habitat that protects water quality.</li> </ul>			
Rodents	Moderate	Don't grow crops eaten raw near concentrated cow manure.			
Field Rodents	Low	Removing habitat that filters pathogens in water is counterproductive.			
Birds near cattle opera- tions or polluted areas	Low	<ul> <li>Do not plant or at least do not harvest in areas where birds consistently perch directly over planted beds.</li> </ul>			
Amphibians and reptiles	Low	Make sure that nearby riparian areas are not unnaturally depleted of water during the crop season. Conserve habitat.			
Insects	Low	<ul> <li>Do not grow crops eaten raw next to areas of concentrated cow manure.</li> <li>Do not harvest crops impacted by high populations of flies close to harvest.</li> </ul>			

Community Alliance with Family Farmers, www.caff.org/policy/GAPsjuly52010.pdf

### Food Safety and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)

Several universities and extension services have publications and resources regarding food safety and GAPs. Some of them are listed below:

#### *Iowa State University. University Extension Publications:*

#### On-Farm Food Safety: Guide to Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)

Learn how to develop a food safety plan on the farm that documents your risk reduction efforts. https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/ListItems. aspx?Keyword=Good%20Agricultural%20Practices www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1974a.pdf

#### On-Farm Food Safety: Guide to Food Handling

Details of safe food handling habits related to health, hygiene, and handwashing for all farm workers. https://www.extension.iastate.edu/store/ListItems. aspx?Keyword=guide%20to%20food%20handling www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1974B.pdf

#### On-Farm Food Safety: Guide to Cleaning and Sanitizing

Suggested checklists, standard procedures, and schedules to document proper on-farm cleaning and sanitizing practices. www.extension.iastate.edu/store/ListItems.aspx?Keyword =guide%20to%20cleaning%20and%20sanitizing www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1974C.pdf

#### **Cornell University Department of Food Science**

Several resources and publications available online.

#### GAPsNET

Good Agricultural Practices Network for Education and Training. The website shows GAPs-related events provided by the National GAPs Program collaborators. *www.gaps.cornell.edu* 

#### Food Safety Begins on the Farm: A Grower's Guide

Good Agricultural Practices for Fruits and Vegetables http://sfp.ucdavis.edu/pubs/articles/foodsafetybeginson thefarm.pdf

#### Minimize Pathogen Contamination During Production and Harvest of Fresh Produce

www.wcmorris.com/gap/files/cornell\_foodsafe.pdf

#### National GAPs Educational Materials www.gaps.cornell.edu/rks.html

#### **Commercial On-Farm Food Safety Practices**

New Mexico State University and University of Hawaii, Manoa. Dr Willis Fedio & Jim Hollyer.

This website offers a general view to commercial farmers of the best on-farm food safety practices. *http://gaps.nmsu.edu/welcome.html* 

If you need more information about this website and its content, please e-mail:

Dr Willis Fedio Director, Food Safety Laboratory College of Agricultural Consumer and Environmental Sciences New Mexico State University wfedio@nmsu.edu

Jim Hollyer, University of Hawaii, *hollyer@hawaii.edu* 

There is also a 25 min. DVD video available titled *Closing the GAPs: Utilizing Good Agricultural Practices* that demonstrates the Good Agricultural Practices.

Available online at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjguXESMVPk

## The Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutri-

tion (JIFSAN) has a Good Agricultural Practices manual available online for free at: www.jifsan.umd.edu/training/gaps\_manual.php

**The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** has a variety of guidance documents online regarding food.

#### Guidance for Industry: Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables. October 26, 1998.

This U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guide provides assistance to U.S. and foreign produce industry in enhancing the safety of domestic and imported produce by addressing common areas of concern in growing, harvesting, sorting, packing, and distribution of fresh produce.

Available online at: www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceCompliance RegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/Produceand PlanProducts/ucm064574.htm

Contact information: Office of Food and Safety. U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway College Park, MD 20740 301-436-1700

#### Also, the FDA offers specific documents on crops:

Guides to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards of:

Leafy Greens: http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceCompliance RegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/Produceand PlanProducts/ucm174200.htm

Melons: http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceCompliance RegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/Produceand PlanProducts/ucm174171.htm

Tomatoes: http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceCompliance RegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/Produceand PlanProducts/ucm173902.htm

**The New Crops Opportunity Center,** from the University of Kentucky Department of Agriculture, provides production and marketing information on new crops and value added versions of current crops. They have a good introductory publication about Good Agricultural Practices: www.uky.edu/Ag/NewCrops/introsheets/gap.pdf

For more information, contact: Christy Cassady Coordinator, New Crop Opportunity Center N-318 Agricultural Science Center University of Kentucky Lexington, KY 40546-0091 859-257-1477 newcrops@uky.edu

**Farm Food Safety.** On-farm Food Safety from Penn State University. The web page shows you a four-step process to safer farm practices, with different resources from publications, training material and videos. There is also information on training and workshops. *http://foodsafety.psu.edu/gaps* 

Rhode Island Food Safety Education. URI Cooperative Extension. Includes information on Rhode Island's Good Agricultural Practices Grower Certification Program. www.uri.edu/ce/ceec/food/grow.html

Kentucky Department of Agriculture: Good Agricultural Practices Educational Resources. A variety of resources from different sources can be found in this website regarding self audits, third party audits, general information, good agricultural practices, microbial contamination, training manuals for farm workers, and also product specific publications (tomatoes, peaches, lemons, etc.) Available on the Web at: www.kyagr.com/marketing/GAPResources.htm

North Carolina Market Ready. Fresh Produce Safety. NC Cooperative Extension Fresh Produce Safety – Field to Family is one of the core educational focus areas of NC Market Ready program. Developed for NC Cooperative Extension personnel and NC growers and consumers, the Fresh Produce Safety portal, contains valuable resources and materials, including information on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), traceability, training materials, cost share opportunities and more. Visit this portal at: *www.ncsu.edu/ enterprises/ncfreshproducesafety*.

#### National Good Food Network

The National Good Food Network is bringing together people from all parts of the rapidly emerging good food system – producers, buyers, distributors, advocates, investors and funders – to create a community dedicated to scaling up good food sourcing and access. The webpage has a variety of resources including publications, news and webinars. *www.ngfn.org* 

#### **Ready for an Audit?**

The retail and food service industries are implementing the fresh produce audit verification program in order to verify that farms are producing fruits and vegetables in the safest possible way. These audits are performed by third parties to verify that specific good agricultural practices are being followed.

The Agricultural Marketing Service, together with state departments of agriculture, offers a program based on voluntary audits that confirms adherence to the recommendations made in the Food and Drug Administration's *Guide to Minimize Microbial Food Safety Hazards for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.* If you are interested in this program, please contact:

Kenneth S. Petersen Audit Programs Coordinator Fresh Products Branch 1400 Independence Avenue SW Room 1661, Stop 0240 Washington, DC 20250-0240 Phone: 202-720-4560 FAX: 202-720-8871 ken.petersen@usda.gov

Steve Thomas California Department of Food and Agriculture Program Supervisor CA Fed-State Inspection Service 165 East Tulare Dinuba, CA 93618 Phone: 559-595-8000 sthomas@cdfa.ca.gov

There are also self audits available on the Internet:

*UC Good Agricultural Practices* offers GAP self audits which allow you to assess the GAPs in use in your business. You can answer the self audit online or print the self audit for your use. The complete document is available for download.

http://groups.ucanr.org/UC\_GAPs/GAP\_Self-Audits

**Penn State GAP Self Audit.** This Food Safety self audit is based on the USDA Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices Verification Program Audit Matrix. http://foodsafety.psu.edu/gaps/Checklist\_with\_Points2.pdf

**Grading, Certification and Verification.** The Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA) offers a listing of participating companies that perform third-party audits for the retail and food service industry to verify that there suppliers are in conformance to specific agricultural best practices. www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do? template=TemplateN&page=GAPGHPAuditVerification Program

*The Kentucky Department of Agriculture* lists in its website self-audit resources (from Cornell University) as well as third-party audit resources. *www.kyagr.com/marketing/GAPResources.htm* 

*The NC Market Ready program* also has audits available (self audits and third-party audits) and food safety plans essential to obtain GAPs certification. *http://ncsu.edu/enterprises/ncfreshproducesafety/?page\_id=2347* 

## What will you do if a food-borne illness is suspected to come from your farm?

The best way to protect yourself is to have proper documentation. A personal food safety manual for your farm is like "insurance" that shows the application of good practices. The **University of Massachusetts Extension** has a Good Agricultural Practices Food Safety Manual available online for free that can be used as a template for your farm. The manual is available at:

www.umassextension.org/nutrition/index.php/programs/foodsafety/programs/good-agricultural-practices/gap-manual

For more information on GAPs and help in setting up a Food Safety Plan at your farm, contact: David Nyachuba

dgn@nutrition.umass.edu 413-545-0552 or Rich Bonanno *rbonanno@umext.umass.edu* 978-361-5650

The **Kentucky Department of Agriculture** also has a compilation of farm manuals available from different resources to download or click from their website: *www.kyagr.com/marketing/GAPResources.htm* 

#### Fresh Produce Safety Plan for Field Practices (NC

Market Ready). Consumers and retailers are demanding accountability when it comes to producing, buying and selling fresh produce. Developing, implementing and auditing a food safety plan are essential steps in obtaining Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) certification. NC Market Ready has a compilation of resources useful in this area: *http://ncsu. edu/enterprises/ncfreshproducesafety/?page\_id=2383* 

#### Specific NOP regulations for composted manures: Policy

"Processed manure may be used as a supplement to a soil building program without a specific interval between application and harvest. As always, producers are expected to comply with all applicable requirements of the NOP regulations with respect to soil quality, including ensuring the soil is enhanced and maintained through proper stewardship.

Processed manure products must be treated so that all portions of the product, without causing combustion, reach a minimum temperature of either 150° F (66° C) for at least one hour or 165° F (74° C), and are dried to a maximum moisture level of 12%; or an equivalent heating and drying process could be used. In determining the acceptability of an equivalent process, processed manure products should not contain more than 1x10<sup>3</sup> (1,000) MPN (Most Probable Number) fecal coliform per gram of processed manure sampled and not contain more than 3 MPN Salmonella per 4 gram sample of processed manure."

The NOP document master list is available on the Web at: www.ams.usda.gov/nop/NoticesPolicies/MasterList.html

And specific regulations for processed animal manures: www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELP RDC5062127

### Soil and Compost: ATTRA Publications

All these publications are available online on our ATTRA website: http://attra.ncat.org or by calling and requesting a free copy at: 800-346-9140.

#### **Alternative Soil Testing Laboratories**

This resource list provides a range of soil testing labs and supplies that support the special analytical needs of farmers using organic or sustainable production methods. http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary. php?pub=285

#### **Biodynamic Farming and Compost Preparation**

Biodynamic agriculture was the first ecological farming system to arise in response to commercial fertilizers and specialized agriculture after the turn of the century, yet it remains largely unknown to the modern farmer and land-grant university system. The contribution of biodynamics to organic agriculture is significant, however, and warrants more attention. This publication provides an overview of biodynamic farming and includes additional details and resources on the specialized practice of biodynamic composting.

http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary. php?pub=290

#### Farm Scale Composting Resource List

This resource list offers readings, links, associations, software, periodicals and bibliographies on composting at an individual farm scale.

http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary. php?pub=287

#### **Manures for Organic Crop Production**

Livestock manures are an important resource for sustainable and organic vegetable crop production. This publication discusses the problems and challenges associated with using both raw and composted manures and some of the solutions. Because it is a similar material with related concerns, guano is also dealt with in this document. Restrictions on the use of raw manure in organic farming are also discussed. http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary. php?pub=182

#### Notes on Compost Teas

This publication offers a brief discussion of compost teas compared with compost extracts, describes some methods and equipment for compost tea production, and introduces the soil foodweb concept. A list of laboratories that analyze compost tea is provided, along with an anotated list of key literature and links to resources on the Web.

http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary. php?pub=125

#### Soil Management: National Organic Program Regulations

The National Organic Program Rule, §205.203, Soil Fertility and Crop Nutrient Management Practice Standard, does not define specific land practices that producers must use. But it does identify general soil management and environmental protection objectives. From these objectives, producers and the organic certifiers they work with must determine whether specific farming practices meet the NOP criteria. This publication provides management guidelines for meeting, and measurable parameters for monitoring, these objectives. It also discusses why these objectives are essential for maintaining sustainable, organic production systems. *http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary. php?pub=180* 

#### Other Soil and Compost Resources

#### BioCycle: Journal of Composting and Organics Recycling

Advancing composting, organics recycling, and renewable energy.

Available online at: www.jgpress.com/biocycle.htm

#### **Compost Science and Utilization**

An online site with different resources for composting science and use. www.jgpress.com/compostscience/index.html

#### **Composting at Home**

A factsheet from the Ohio State University Extension. Available online at: *http://ohioline.osu.edu/com-fact/0001.html* 

#### **Cornell Composting**

This website is maintained by the Cornell Waste Management Institute and provides access to a variety of composting educational materials and programs developed at Cornell University.

http://compost.css.cornell.edu/index.html

Also available, the On-Farm Composting Handbook: http:// compost.css.cornell.edu/OnFarmHandbook/onfarm\_TOC.html

#### Farmer Information Fact Sheets: Composting

A set of simple procedures for making compost on the land, from grass cuttings and using water hyacinth. http://ecoport.org/perl/ecoport15.pl?SearchType=slideshowView& slideshowId=92&checkRequired=Y

#### **US Composting Council (USCC)**

The USCC is a national, nonprofit trade and professional organization promoting the recycling of organic materials through composting. The USCC is the only national organization committed to the advancement of the composting industry.

www.compostingcouncil.org

#### **Agricultural Composting Basics**

From the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ontario. A very comprehensive factsheet available online at: www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/05-023.htm#site

#### eXtension

An interactive learning environment with diverse publications on topics such as agriculture. They have a search engine to locate Extension offices near you. A good article on manure and compost utilization is available online: **Manure and Compost Utilization on Fruit and Vegetable Crops** 

www.extension.org/pages/Manure\_and\_Compost\_ Utilization\_on\_Fruit\_and\_Vegetable\_Crops Also, **Making and Using Compost in Organic Agriculture** www.extension.org/article/18567

### Water and Irrigation:

#### ATTRA Publications

All these publications are available online at our ATTRA website: http://attra.ncat.org or by calling and requesting a free copy at 800-346-9140.

#### **Energy Saving Tips for Irrigators**

This publication describes ways that irrigators can save energy to reduce irrigation costs. It describes recommended irrigation system installations, explains how utilities charge their irrigation customers for electricity, and describes common causes of wasted energy, as well as common energy-saving hardware improvements. It also includes a do-it-yourself method to estimate the efficiency of electrically powered irrigation systems. A listing of references and resources follows the narrative.

http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary. php?pub=119

#### Maintaining Irrigation Pumps, Motors, and Engines

This publication explains how to maintain irrigation pumps, motors, and engines for peak efficiency. The publication includes descriptions and diagrams of recommended installations, checklists for maintenance tasks, and a troubleshooting guide. Each system component is treated separately and maintenance tasks are broken down by how frequently they need to be done.

http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary. php?pub=112

#### Measuring and Conserving Irrigation Water

This publication describes how to find the net water application rate for any irrigation system. It further explains how to calculate the number of hours the system should be operated, describes several ways to measure flowing water in an open channel or pipeline, and offers suggestions for irrigating with limited water supplies.

http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary. php?pub=332

#### Protecting Water Quality on Organic Farms

While organic farms tend to have less nitrogen leaching, better nutrient holding ability, and less runoff and erosion, there can still be environmental concerns related to organic farming, in the areas of the transition period from conventional to organic, in nutrient management planning practices and from improper storage of manure or compost materials. This publication discusses strategies for preventing water pollution by addressing those concerns. *http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary. php?pub=114* 

#### Irrigation (Power Point presentation)

Sustainable irrigation practices and methods for protecting soil and water quality when using irrigation *http://attra.ncat.org/downloads/water\_quality/irrigation.pdf* 

#### Other Water and Irrigation Resources

#### National Institute of Food and Agriculture: Water

American communities and rural areas depend on a safe and reliable water supply. The science and management of water requires consideration of the quantity and quality of water resources and the land management activities that affect these water resources. Through research, education and extension, NIFA water programs provide basic knowledge, application and learning opportunities needed to address agricultural water quality and quantity issues. *www.csrees.usda.gov/water.cfm* 

#### Water: Laws, Regulations, Policy, Guidance and Legislation. US EPA

Laws and regulations, policy and Guidance documents, and legislation, US EPA Department of Water. *www.epa.gov/OW/laws.html* 

#### NRCS Water Quality and Water Quantity

The NRCS West National Technology Support Center hosts a team of technical specialists that cover a broad range of water quality and quantity issues. Each of nine disciplines provides information, data, software, and support contacts. www.wsi.nrcs.usda.gov/products/W2Q/W2Q\_home.html

The Farm Water Quality Planning Program is a coordinated effort by the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, whose goal is to improve water quality education to the irrigated agriculture industry in California.

http://groups.ucanr.org/signup/index.cfm

**The National Water Program** has the mission of creating and disseminating knowledge that insures a safe and reliable source of water of the appropriate quality to meet the needs of food and fiber production, human health, use and economic growth, maintenance and protection of natural environmental systems.

www.usawaterquality.org

#### Disinfecting a Domestic Well with Shock Chlorination

This New Mexico State University publication talks about shock chlorination as a disinfection treatment recommended when a domestic drinking water system is contaminated with bacteria. Contamination can occur when the well is installed. *http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/\_m/m-115.pdf* 

## Analytical and Testing Services

#### Alternative Soil Testing Laboratories

This resource from ATTRA provides a range of soil testing laboratories and supplies that support the special analytical needs of farmers using organic or sustainable production methods.

http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php? pub=285 **The US Composting Council** lists a group of STA (Soil Testing Assurance) labs that provide analytical services for STA participants and use TMECC (Test Methods for Evaluation of Compost and Composting). *www.compostingcouncil.org/programs/sta/labs.php* 

## Other Agricultural Analytical Laboratories by region:

#### **North Central Region**

(Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin)

#### Universal Analytical Laboratories

891 Eighth Street Carlyle, IL 62231 Phone: 618-594-2627 Fax: 618-594-2637 *ualab@ualab.com* 

#### **GMS** Laboratories

They perform soil tests, including heavy metals, and compost. Different tests available. Contact information: P.O. Box 61 23877 E 00 North Road Cropsey, IL 61731 Phone: 309-377-2851 Fax: 309-377-2017 gmslab83@gmslab.com www.gmslab/pages/home

#### Olsen's Agricultural Laboratory

210 East 1st Street McCook, NE 69001 Phone: 308-345-3670 Fax: 308-345-7880 www.olsenlab.com/default.aspx

#### Northeast region

(Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington D.C., West Virginia)

#### Agricultural Analytical Services Lab

Wide range of services including soil (heavy metals), manure and compost, water, plant tissue, and others. Contact information: Penn State University Tower Rd. University Park, PA 16802 Phone: 814-863-0841 Fax: 814-863-4540 *aaslab@psu.edu www.aasl.psu.edu* 

#### UVM Agricultural and Soil Testing Laboratories

Provides soil (including heavy metals), manure and compost testing. Contact information: Agricultural and Environmental Testing Lab Jeffords Hall, Room 262 63 Carrigan Drive University of Vermont Burlington, VT 05405-1737 Phone: 802-656-3030 Fax: 802-656-0285 Joel.Tilley@yvm.edu / dross@uvm.edu www.uvm.edu/pss/ag\_testing

#### Analytical Laboratory and Maine Soil Testing Service

5722 Deering Hall Orono, ME 04469-5722 Phone: 207-581-3591 Fax: 207-581-3597 *http://anlab.umesci.maine.edu* 

#### **South Region**

(Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands)

#### Waters Agricultural Laboratories Inc.

Soil analysis (including heavy metals), water analysis and other services relevant to agriculture. Located in Georgia and Kentucky. Contact information: 257 Newton Rd. P.O. Box 382 Camilla, GA 31713 or 2101 Calhoun Rd. Highway 81 Owensboro, KY 42301 Phone: 229-336-7213 Fax: 229-336-7967 *info@watersag.com www.watersag.com/frame.htm* 

#### Soil, Water and Forage Analytical Laboratory

045 Agricultural Hall Stillwater, OK 74078 Phone: 405-744-6630 Fax: 405-744-9575 soiltesting@okstate.edu www.soiltesting.okstate.edu/index.htm

#### A&L Eastern Laboratories, Inc.

7621 Whitepine Rd. Richmond, VA 23237 Phone: 804-743-9401 Fax: 804-271-6446 office@al-labs-eastern.com http://al-labs-eastern.com/index.html

#### A&L Plains Laboratories

A&L Plains Agricultural Laboratory Lubbock, TX 79408-1590 Phone: 806-763-4278 Fax: 806-763-2762 www.al-labs-plains.com

#### West Region

(Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico)

#### D&D Agricultural Laboratory, Inc.

Specializing in soil, plant and water analysis Contact information: 5750 E. Shields Ave., Suite 104 Fresno, CA 93727 Phone: 559-348-1818

#### Dellavalle Laboratory, Inc.

Provide soil, water, plant tissue, manure analysis, with others. Also consultant services. Contact information: 1910 W. McKinley Ave., Suite #110 Fresno, CA 93728 Phone: 800-228-9896 / 559-233-6129 www.dellavallelab.com/index.html

#### Waterlab Corp

2603 12th Street SE Salem, OR 97302 Phone: 503-363-0473 Fax: 503-363-8900 *http://waterlabcorp.com/index.php* 

#### **Other Useful Resources:**

**The United States Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) helps you find environmental information about the area where you live, regarding possible contamination in water, soil and air. The website is: *www.epa.gov/epahome/ whereyoulive.htm*. The EPA also offers a list of environmental agencies by state: *www.epa.gov/epahome/state.htm* 

The EPA has a very complete and informative Web page on compost: *www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/rrr/composting/ index.htm* 

#### Keeping Feces on the Farm. Science Now.

This article reveals the advantage of spray irrigation compared to older flood irrigation techniques. Spray irrigation appears to reduce transport of pathogens into drinking water wells. This is especially a concern for livestock farming operations, which are increasingly worried about liability from *E. coli* and similar cases of infection.

http://news.sciencemag.org/sciencenow/2010/06/keeping-feces-on -the-farm.html

#### Best On-Farm Food Safety Practices: Documenting Trace-Back and Trace-Forward of Harvested Produce

Helpful publication from the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Manoa at Hawaii. This document gives a good description of a traceback system, mostly oriented for a larger farm, but the principles are the same. *www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/FST-36.pdf* 

# Sample Record Keeping Form for Compost/Manure Application and for Compost Production

#### Manure Applications log

*From: National GAPs Education Materials, Cornell University Department of Food Science:* www.gaps.cornell.edu/rks.html

Name o	Name of operation: Please see the food safety plan for overall manure application procedures							
Please s								
Date	Field Applied	Rate	Incorporated (Yes or No)	Supplier	Crop Planted (Type and Date)	Crop Harvested (Date)	Initials	
Reviewe	Reviewed By:			Title:				
Date:	Date:							

#### **Compost Production Record**

From: Organic Market Farm Documentation Series. ATTRA. http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/marketforms.pdf

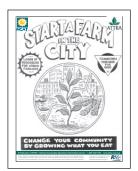
Compost Pro	duction Record		
A record of on-	farm compost production practices.		
Farm Name:		Production Yea	r:
Compost Pile, V	Vindrow, or Unit I.D.:	Date Started:	
Compost Produ	uction Method Used (circle one): windrow	in-vessel	static aerated pile
	ed (including inoculants): for approximate C:N ratios of common feedstocks)	Estimated C/N	Ratio:
Dates	Temperature	Turned?	

## **Other publications in ATTRA's Illustrated Series of publications**



#### The Organic Chronicles

Available in English, Hmong, and Spanish



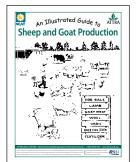
#### Start a Farm in the City

➤ Available in English and Spanish



#### New Markets for Your Crops

Available in English and Spanish, and as an audio download in Spanish



## Illustrated Guide to Sheep and Goat Production

Available in English, Hmong, and Spanish



#### Finding Land to Farm

➤ Available in English and Spanish



#### Organic IPM Field Guide

Available in English and Spanish

#### Illustrated Guide to Growing Safe Produce on Your Farm: GAPs

By Pamela Wolfe and Rex Dufour NCAT Agriculture Specialists © 2010 NCAT

Robert Armstrong, Illustrations Karen Van Epen, Editor Robyn Metzger, Production

This publication is available on the Web at: www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/foodsafety.pdf

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